



LAND USE PLAN SUMMARY  
RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY  
AND  
GRAZING E.I.S. RECORD OF DECISION

for the

**CAL-NEVA  
PLANNING UNIT**



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SUSANVILLE DISTRICT

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Sacramento, California 95825

Dear Reader:

This document, which combines the Cal-Neva Land Use Plan Summary, Rangeland Program Summary, and EIS Record of Decision, has been published and distributed for your information and review.

The first planning element included in this document is the Cal-Neva Land Use Plan Summary. It outlines how the BLM will manage the 642,851 acres of public land in Lassen and Washoe Counties -- Susanville BLM District's Cal-Neva Planning Unit. The Cal-Neva Land Use Plan is a culmination of three years of planning and environmental assessment efforts, with the advice and opinions expressed by many of you incorporated throughout.

The official Cal-Neva Land Use Plan is maintained at the Susanville BLM District's Eagle Lake Resource Area Office in Susanville. The plan includes, in addition to the material presented in this summary, how each decision tracks through the planning process, more detailed rationale, and implementation needs and schedules.

The second planning element, the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), is a communication bridge between the two major decision points affecting livestock grazing -- land-use planning decisions and grazing decisions to be issued to individual grazing permittees. It provides a tracking mechanism from the analysis of alternatives in the grazing EIS, to the land use planning decisions, through the implementation of grazing management actions.

The third planning element, the Record of Decision (ROD), officially presents the decisions arising from the Cal-Neva Grazing EIS and encompasses elements from both the land use plan and the RPS.

Because planning and management of public lands is a dynamic process with a great deal of specific on-the-ground decisions yet to be made, subsequent RPS updates will be issued to keep you informed of our management progress. Public participation will play a vital role in developing specific grazing management plans. Consequently, we encourage your continued participation and feel confident that together we can put our planning efforts to work to best meet our public and resource needs.

Sincerely yours,

*C. Rex Cleary*  
C. Rex Cleary  
District Manager







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THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF DALLAS  
I, \_\_\_\_\_, County Clerk of said County, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears of record in my office.

WITNESSED my hand and the seal of said County at Dallas, Texas, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk of Dallas County, Texas

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public for the State of Texas  
My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_, 2018



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## INTRODUCTION

### LOCATION OF AREA

The Cal-Neva Planning Unit, shown on maps 1 and 2, pages 2 and 3, is located entirely in the Great Basin drainage. About 60 percent of the planning unit is in the northeastern portion of Lassen County, California, with the remainder of the unit located on the western side of Washoe County, Nevada. The unit includes 642,851 acres of public land within the total 797,925 acre area.

### BLM PLANNING PROCESS

The BLM planning process contains three stages described below: information gathering, land use planning, and implementation of the plan. Public participation is an important part of each stage and plays a vital role in the entire planning process.

#### 1. Information Gathering

- Issues and data needs.
- Resource inventory.
- Data assimilation and analysis.

#### 2. Land Use Planning

- Resource recommendations presented.
- Recommendations analyzed and conflicts resolved.
- Grazing related recommendations formulated into Proposed Action and alternatives.
- EIS prepared.
- Land use decisions made.
- Initial Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) developed, containing proposed grazing decisions.
- Affected operators consulted on proposed grazing decisions.
- RPS Update issued, reflecting modification or verification of proposed grazing decisions based on consultation.
- Final grazing decisions issued.

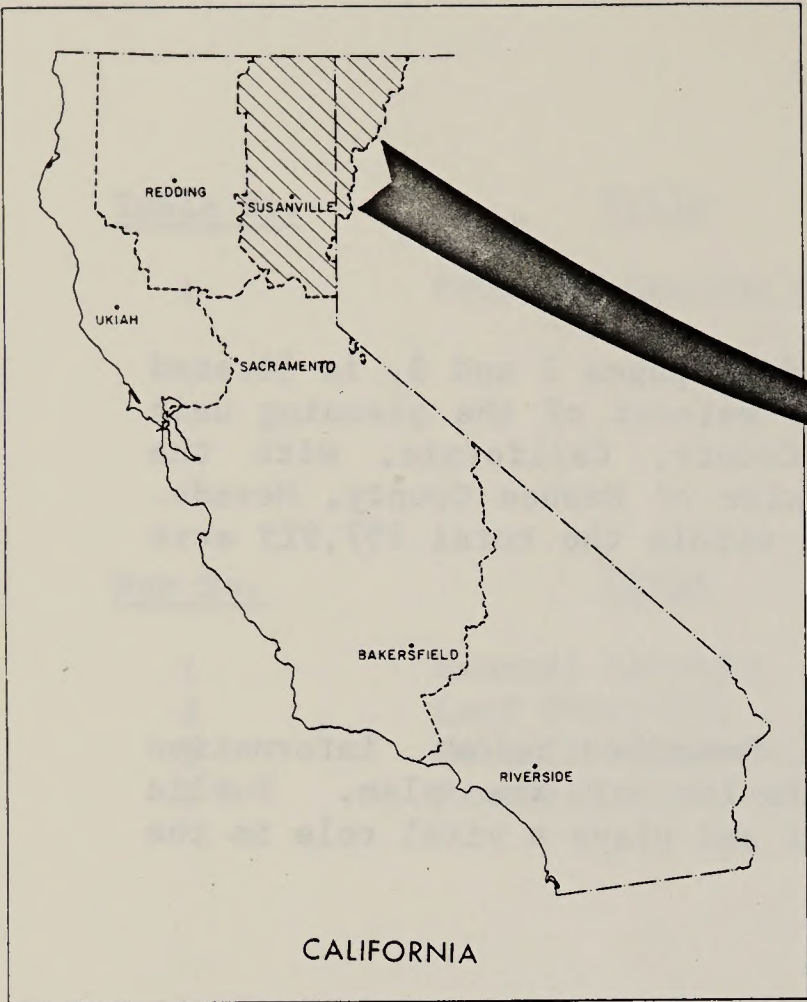
#### 3. Implementation

- Resource activity plans such as Allotment Management Plans (AMPs).
- Environmental Assessments completed before starting any project.
- Implementation schedules depend on available funding for projects.

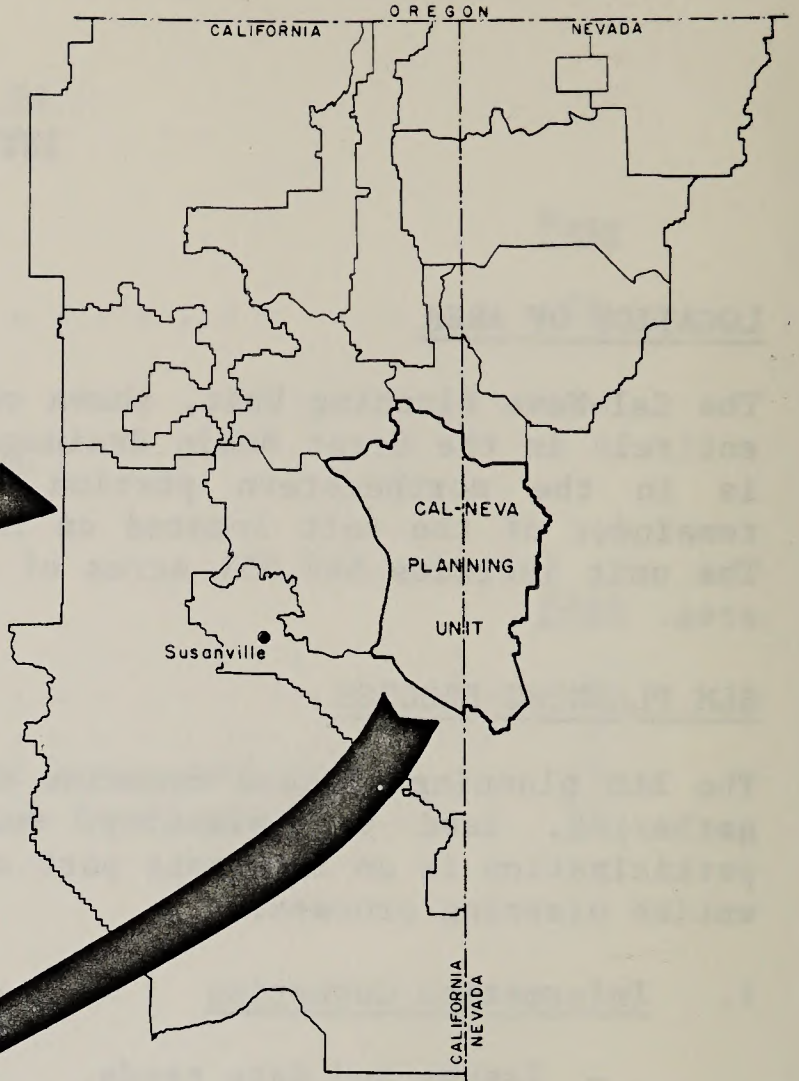
This document completes the 5th and 6th listed elements of the Land Use Planning stage.

Decisions presented in this document are the culmination of three years of intensive resource inventory, evaluation, planning, and environmental assessment efforts.

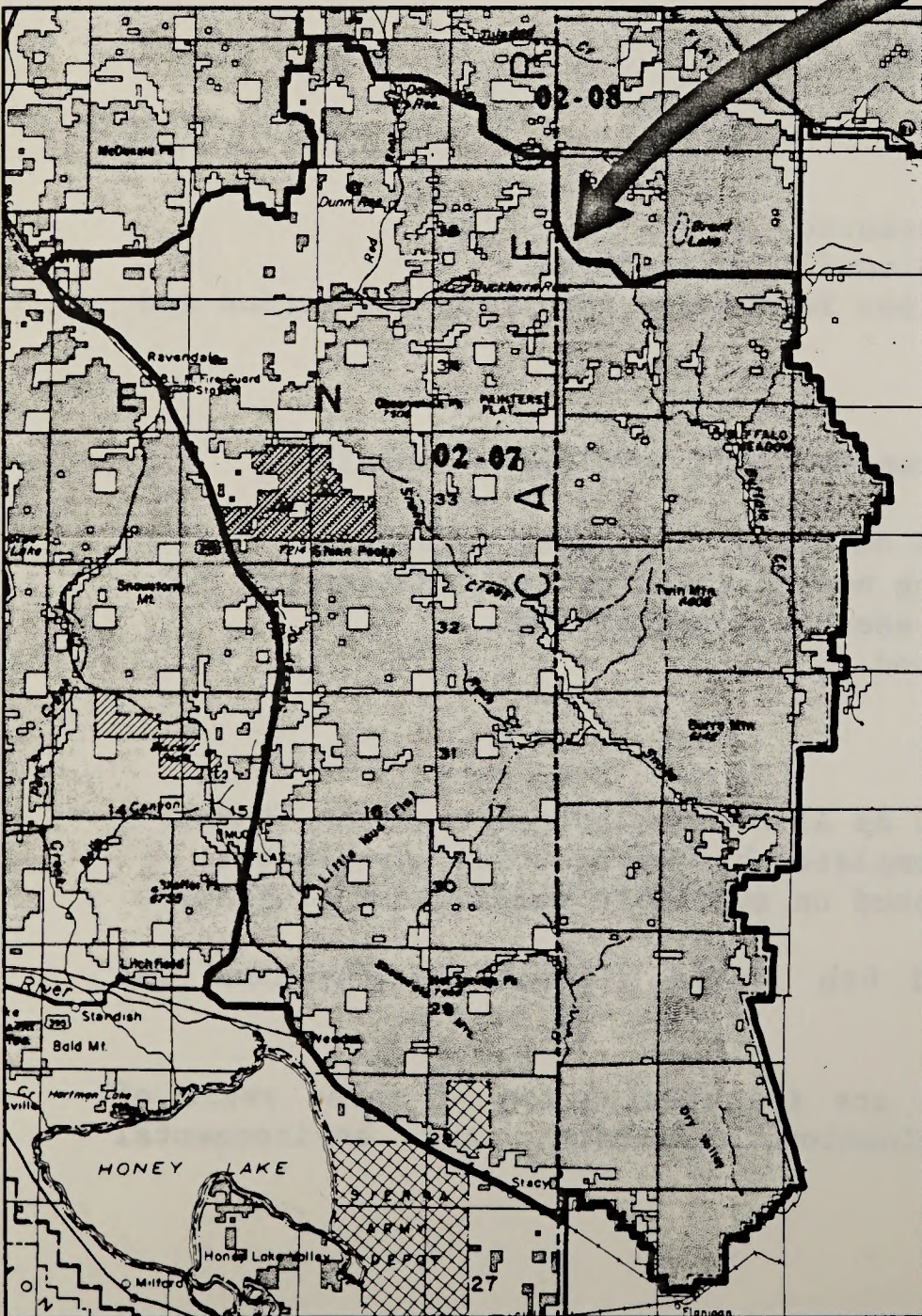




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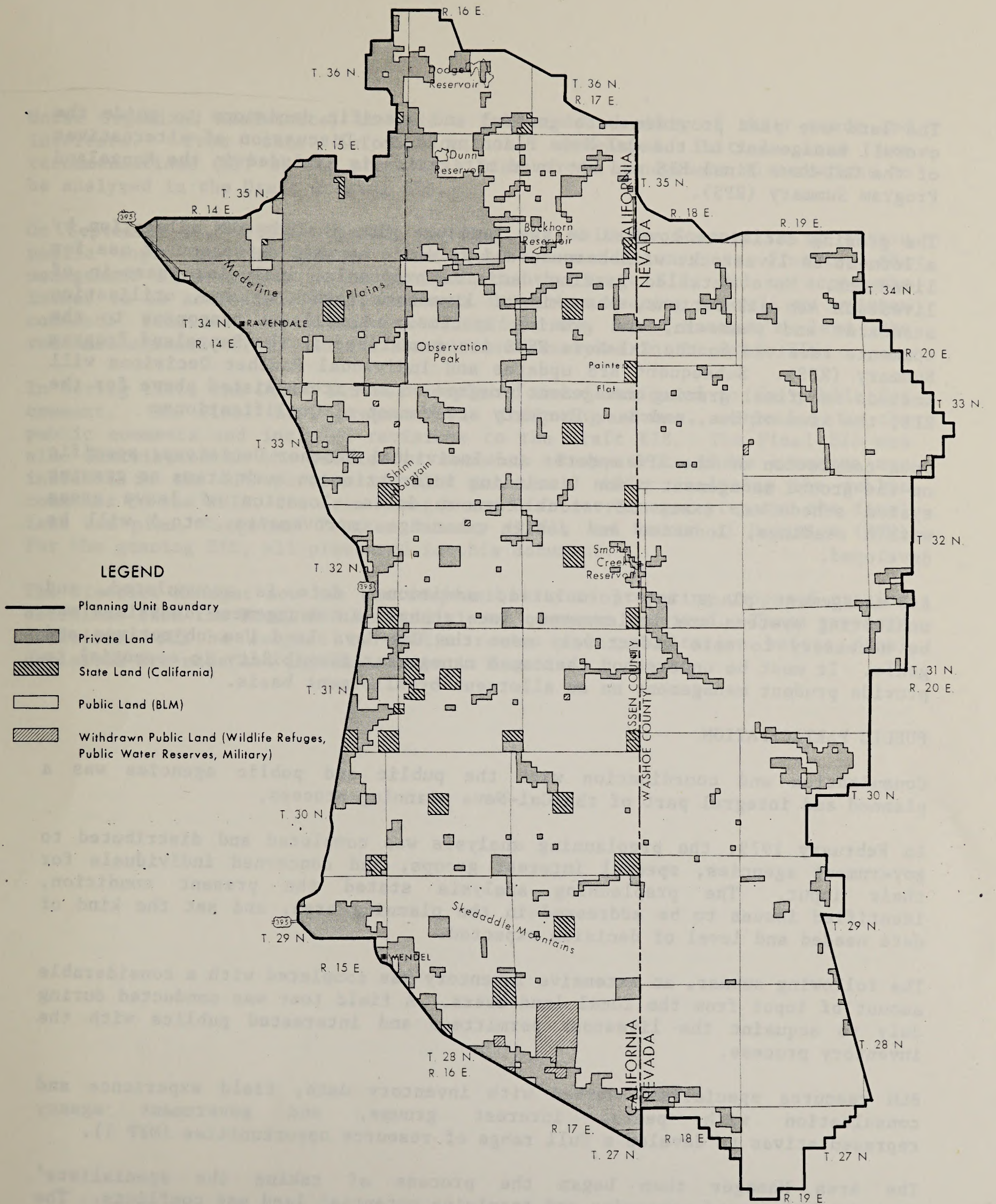
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CAL-NEVA PLANNING UNIT

Map 1  
CAL-NEVA PLANNING UNIT  
GENERAL LOCATION





Map 2

CAL-NEVA PLANNING UNIT

LAND OWNERSHIP



The land use plan provides both general and specific decisions to guide the overall management of the Cal-Neva Planning Unit. Discussion of alternatives of the Cal-Neva Final EIS and approved mitigation is included in the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS).

The grazing decisions covered in the land use plan include AUM allocation by allotment to livestock, wild horses, and wildlife as well as season of use for livestock. More detailed grazing decision proposals, including phase-in of livestock AUM allocations, phase-in of livestock season of use, utilization standards and phase-in, and grazing systems, as well as responses to the comments received on the Cal-Neva FEIS are summarized in the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS). Subsequent RPS updates and Individual Rancher Decisions will include the final grazing management program on the items listed above for the RPS, the Area of Use, and Base Property Attachment of Qualifications.

Upon completion of the RPS updates and Individual Rancher Decisions, specific on-the-ground management plans (including information on such items as grazing system schedules, exact livestock turnout dates, location of leave areas within seedings, location and design of range improvements, etc.) will be developed.

As management plans are formulated, additional data is accumulated, and monitoring systems are implemented, some changes in management decisions may be necessary to more effectively meet the Cal-Neva Land Use objectives and goals. It must be understood that such management flexibility is essential to provide prudent management on an allotment-by-allotment basis.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Consultation and coordination with the public and public agencies was a planned and integral part of the Cal-Neva planning process.

In February 1979, the preplanning analysis was completed and distributed to government agencies, special interest groups, and concerned individuals for their input. The preplanning analysis stated the present condition, identified issues to be addressed in the planning area, and set the kind of data needed and level of decision expected.

The following summer, an extensive inventory was completed with a considerable amount of input from the local land-users. A field tour was conducted during July to acquaint the livestock permittees and interested publics with the inventory process.

BLM resource specialists worked with inventory data, field experience and consultation with peers, interest groups, and government agency representatives to develop a full range of resource opportunities (MFP 1).

The Area Manager then began the process of taking the specialists' recommendations and assessing and resolving potential land use conflicts. The Area Manager and his staff contacted each permittee and the most concerned interest groups (Nevada Department of Wildlife, California Fish and Game, Sierra Club, National Resources Defence Council, Audubon Society, and Wild



Horse Organized Assistance) to gain a full understanding of their needs and interests. From this information, he developed initial land use recommendations (MFP 2) and prepared a list of the management alternatives to be analyzed in the Draft Grazing EIS.

On September 30, 1980, a public meeting was held in Susanville to obtain public input on the initial land use recommendations, to finalize the management alternatives to be analyzed in the Draft EIS, and to scope the issues to be addressed. Oral comments from this meeting as well as written comments received were used to finalize the Area Manager's land use recommendations (MFP 2) and the alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS.

In Spring 1981, the Draft EIS was completed and distributed to the public for comment. The Final EIS, prepared the following summer, responded to the public comments and included revisions to the Draft EIS. The Final EIS was also distributed to the public for comment. Response to these comments are included in the RPS portion of this document. After analyzing the public comments to the FEIS, the Area Manager and District Manager prepared the final land use plan, Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), and Record of Decision (ROD) for the grazing EIS, all presented in this document.

The District Manager now has the responsibility of preparing proposed grazing decisions from the Final EIS and additional comments received. These proposed decisions will be subject to public review and consultation before final decisions are made and implementation is begun.







## LAND USE PLAN SUMMARY

### FORMAT

The Cal-Neva Planning Unit has been divided into eight subunits (shown on map 3, page 15) based on the overriding resource concerns within each subunit. Dividing the planning unit into subunits allows land use planning on an areal basis for easier determination of land use goals and decisions for smaller, more workable units of public land. Map 3 also locates the special management areas described in the specific land use decisions.

The following land use goals and decisions have been divided into two parts: (1) overall land use objectives and planning goals, and those decisions which apply study area-wide or to two or more subunits, and (2) significant issues, planning goals, and decisions specific to each subunit. Each decision is followed by a rationale.

As this summary only highlights the key land use decisions, the land use plan itself would have to be consulted for the complete land use decisions.

### LAND USE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS (Unit-Wide)

The overall land use objectives for Cal-Neva are to:

1. Improve the ecological condition of public lands by minimizing destructive uses and by providing for their orderly use and improvement under multiple use management.
2. Give consideration and priority to the protection and management of areas with special environmental concern.
3. Stabilize the social and economic environment of the local community.

The following overall planning goals have also been developed:

1. To improve native range condition on public lands within 20 years to bring "poor" condition lands to "fair" and "fair" lands to "good" condition while maintaining "good" condition lands in their present class. Assure an upward trend on "poor" and "fair" lands and maintain stable trend on "good" condition lands.
2. To improve water distribution to more adequately meet livestock, wildlife, and wild horse and burro needs and to obtain better dispersement of animals.
3. To allocate forage for "reasonable" and "objective" wildlife populations (deer - 12,900 winter and 10,700 non-winter; antelope - 2,000 winter and 1,300 resident non-winter) as determined by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the California Department of Fish and Game.



4. To manage wild horse and burro populations to assure healthy herd condition as well as to prevent undue destruction of the range from overpopulation.
5. To improve important wildlife habitat including:
  - a. Improvement of the unprotected willow-riparian areas from poor to fair ecological condition.
  - b. Improvement of the fair condition meadows to good condition and the poor condition meadows to fair condition.
  - c. Maintenance or improvement of the condition of pronghorn antelope kidding grounds and mule deer fawning areas.
6. To increase or maintain the quality and quantity of water on or beneath public lands so as not to degrade the beneficial uses of that water, including flood plain and wetland values.
7. To maintain or enhance soil, within its potential as a growing medium for range plants, to provide for the sustained yield of desirable range plants. Generally on range lands, 2 tons/acre/year is considered tolerable surface soil loss.
8. To protect archaeological and historic resources and areas potentially suitable for wilderness consideration, as required by law.
9. To improve or maintain the overall scenic quality of the planning unit.

#### POLICY AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

In addition to land use decisions, management actions must adhere to a number of laws and policy guidelines. Most notable among these are the following:

1. Wilderness Study Areas will be managed pursuant to BLM Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, dated December 12, 1979, until wilderness studies are completed. All projects must follow the non-impairment criteria of the Interim Management Guidelines.
2. A cultural resource survey will be required for each project site before construction (BLM policy; National Historic and Preservation Act of 1966; National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; Executive Order 11593; 36 CFR 800).
3. Endangered and threatened species survey and clearance will be required for each project site before construction (Endangered Species Act). Also, the BLM policy on "Conserving Rare, Threatened or Endangered Plants on Public lands in California" (I.M. No. CA-77-256) requires that special consideration be given to candidate species and California Native Plant Society listed species. Any species found that are on lists covered by the above Instruction Memorandum will be given that consideration required by I.M. No. CA-77-256.



Standard operating procedures and mitigation measures are listed in the RPS, pages 28-31.

#### GENERAL DECISIONS/RATIONALE

##### Decision #1

Grant rights-of-way for powerlines, roads, and other facilities necessary for development of geothermal and oil and gas resources.

Rationale -- Development of energy sources has a very high national priority.

##### Decision #2

Provide legal and physical access for public use and resource management activities on public lands through easement acquisition and construction or maintenance of roads, providing such development does not conflict with wilderness policy.

Rationale -- Resource management and public use depend on both legal and physical access to the public lands.

##### Decision #3

Process and complete a proposed land exchange with the State of California and process future land exchanges that show definite public benefits.

Rationale -- Land exchanges are a preferred method of acquiring land for specific resource management objectives, including grazing, wildlife habitat, timber, recreation, and cultural resources.

##### Decision #4

Evaluate lands with Desert Land Entry filings as well as other potential agricultural lands to determine suitability for transfer to private ownership. Dispose of those lands best suited for agricultural development if disposal would be in the national interest and would be compatible with the objectives of this land use plan as well as local government planning.

Rationale -- Some lands suitable for agricultural development could be transferred into private ownership without significantly affecting BLM programs.

##### Decision #5

Revoke the Classification and Multiple Use (C&MU) Act classification on the Nevada lands in the Cal-Neva Planning Unit and base future land disposal decisions on this land use plan.



Rationale -- Only the Nevada portion of the planning unit has been classified under the C&MU Act which segregated the lands from disposal through agricultural entry. Revoking the C&MU Act classification on these lands would allow consideration of a full range of land uses based on the multiple use objectives of this land use plan.

Decision #6

Encourage mining and oil and gas exploration and development, in coordination with other resource values, and allow mineral material disposals on a public demand basis.

Rationale -- Mining and oil and gas development and material disposals are needed, based on demand, but must be done with consideration of other resources.

Decision #7

Protect those cultural sites identified as having National Register quality. When developing projects, consider and protect these cultural values.

Rationale -- Sites of National Register quality have significant public importance and need to be preserved.

Decision #8

Limit access (through fencing or other barricades) to caves (cultural sites) which have suffered and will continue to suffer vandalism from collectors.

Rationale -- Until these sites can be totally excavated by professional archaeologists, protection will prevent significant loss of cultural data.

Decision #9 (Subunits 1, 6, and 7)

Protect the Noble's Immigrant Trail from destructive activities.

Rationale -- This trail was a principal route to the western gold fields. Several intact stretches of the original trail still exist and should be preserved.

Decision #10

Implement a livestock grazing program to include the following (see Rangeland Program Summary for a complete description):

1. Implement intensive grazing systems on the Cal-Neva Summer, Cal-Neva Winter, Spanish Springs AMP, and Shinn Mountain Individual Allotments.

Develop systems to give particular consideration toward improving and maintaining riparian, wetland, and meadow habitat to enhance and protect wildlife and watershed values. Monitor key areas to determine to what degree the systems are meeting the resource objectives.



2. Provide a minimum of one season's rest from cattle during the growing season for every year's grazing during the growing season.
3. Establish grazing seasons to meet plant and soil needs (see RPS).
4. Establish moderate use limitations of 40 percent to 60 percent use during the grazing season.
5. Authorize near existing livestock use of 25,248 AUMs for cattle and 4,766 AUMs for sheep. Adjust future stocking levels as range condition and trend improves and production increases.
6. Divide the Cal-Neva Summer Allotment into three use areas.
7. Allow partial conversion of cattle to sheep use.

Rationale -- Most rangeland within the planning unit is either in poor or fair range condition and is not producing its potential quality or quantity of livestock forage. Development of a more intensive livestock management program can improve range condition, trend, and production, increase forage production, and enhance other resource values without creating economic hardships for existing permittees.

#### Decision #11

Adjust wild horse and burro populations to 600 horses and 75 burros. Allow populations to build to 850 and 110, respectively, when range condition improves.

Rationale -- Reducing horse and burro populations will help improve range condition while still ensuring healthy, viable wild horse and burro herds.

#### Decision #12

Issue free use or commercial permits for juniper as the need is demonstrated. Evaluate all mahogany cutting on a case by case basis and allow cutting only after a woodland management plan is developed.

Rationale -- Demands for wood fuels and wood products are increasing. Supply far exceeds demands and wood can be harvested with minimal environmental impacts. Mahogany cutting must be evaluated case by case due to its importance for wildlife needs.

#### Decision #13

Designate the planning unit as open to ORV use except for Subunits 1, 4, 5, and 7 which have restrictions described under each subunit.



Rationale -- Most ORV use occurs on existing roads and trails. Cross country use is limited by rugged terrain. As overall ORV use is low and not expected to increase substantially, very little resource damage is expected from this activity.

Decision #14

Prohibit toxicant control of jackrabbits.

Rationale -- Jackrabbits provide important food for predators and recreational enjoyment for hunters. Toxicants may also harm non-target species.

Decision #15

Initiate a program to eliminate beaver within the planning unit.

Rationale -- Eliminating this introduced species would prevent additional damage to existing riparian habitat.

Decision #16

Put goose nesting rock jacks in appropriate reservoirs.

Rationale -- These structures would enhance waterfowl nesting opportunities.

Decision #17

Provide ground level water for wildlife at all new water developments. Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to provide ground level water in areas with water deficiencies including:

1. The north side of observation peak.
2. The area west of Little Mud Flat.
3. The Skedaddle escarpment.
4. The east side of Burro Mountain.
5. The Smoke Creek Desert escarpment.

Rationale -- The area occupied by several wildlife species can be expanded by installing rain water catchment devices large enough to facilitate big game use.

Decision #18

Establish a modified suppression plan for the unit and identify control burn areas to enhance vegetative condition and to reduce wildfire hazards.



Rationale -- Fire can be used as an efficient management tool to reduce devastating wildfire potential as well as to achieve desired vegetative type conversions.

Decision #19

Enhance and maintain aspen groves in good condition.

Rationale -- Aspen groves provide important wildlife habitat and enhance scenic quality.

Decision #20

Protect Golden Eagle and Prairie Falcon hunting areas by either prohibiting vegetative manipulation projects near nesting sites or, at a minimum, leaving islands or strips of native vegetation within treatment areas.

Rationale -- Vegetative manipulation projects tend to decrease the predator prey base.

Decision #21

Ensure that scattered junipers are left in any juniper reduction area. Encourage firewood and post collection prior to control projects.

Rationale -- Juniper can provide many benefits such as wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and firewood. Leaving scattered trees would continue to provide important nesting habitat for the Swainson's hawk as well as other wildlife.

Decision #22

Prohibit sagebrush eradication projects within sage grouse breeding complexes and within 100 yards of any stream or meadow, unless the eradication project is specifically designed to restore the original boundaries of the meadow.

Rationale -- Sagebrush provides important cover for sage grouse.

Decision #23

Provide forage and habitat for "objective" deer and antelope populations as follows:

1. Mule Deer (approximate numbers)

a. Cal-Neva Summer Allotment

10,100 from 05/01 to 11/30

12,500 from 12/01 to 04/30

b. Cal-Neva Winter Allotment

350 from 12/01 to 04/30



- c. All other allotments

Meet California Fish and Game objective numbers.

2. Antelope (approximate numbers)

- a. Cal-Neva Summer Allotment

1,300 from 10/16 to 04/15  
1,250 from 04/16 to 10/15

- b. Cal-Neva Winter Allotment

400 from 10/16 to 04/15

- c. Shinn Individual Allotment

13 from 07/01 to 10/31

Rationale -- The California Department of Fish and Game and the Nevada Department of Wildlife have provided the BLM with objective numbers of mule deer and antelope. Both species provide exceptional recreational opportunities for hunting and sightseeing. Providing adequate forage and habitat will help maintain healthy, viable game populations.

SUBUNIT DECISIONS/RATIONALE

Subunit 1 - Wilderness Study Areas

This subunit includes six wilderness study areas (WSAs) encompassing 357,515 acres or 56 percent of the planning unit. It is subject to the Bureau's wilderness interim management criteria which prohibits activities that would impair wilderness suitability. The primary objective for this subunit, then, is to allow multiple use activities while protecting the suitability of the WSAs for possible wilderness designation.

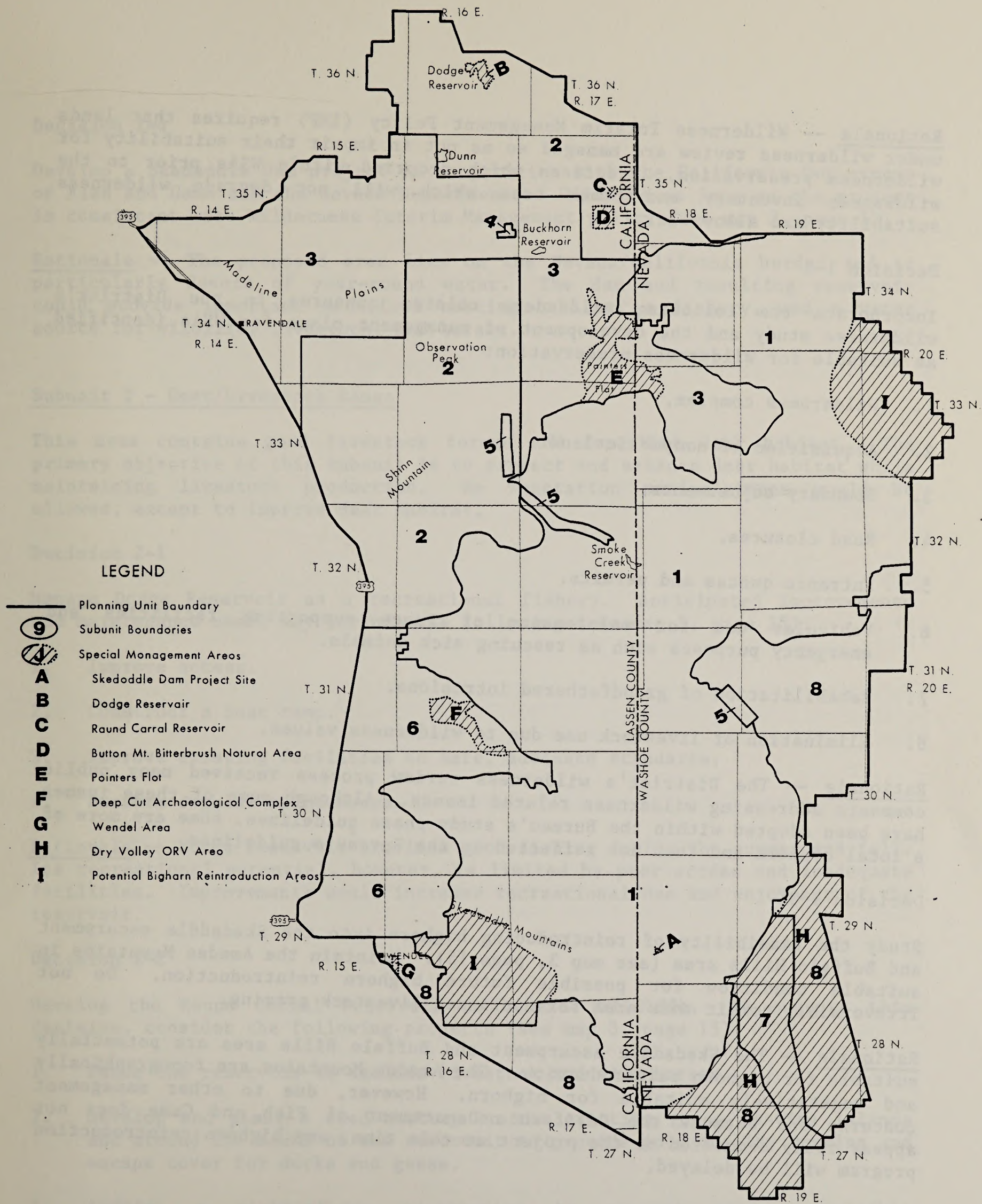
Decision 1-1

Manage the wilderness study areas in a manner which does not degrade their wilderness characteristics.

Specifically:

1. Restrict ORV use to existing roads and trails.
2. After review of impacts on other resources, improve, maintain, or close cherrystem roads as needed.
3. Explore potential areas for prescribed fire and develop plans to complete prescribed fire where resource benefits justify to enhance wilderness characteristics.







Rationale -- Wilderness Interim Management Policy (IMP) requires that lands under wilderness review are managed so as not to impair their suitability for wilderness preservation. Practices which occurred within WSAs prior to the wilderness inventory and other uses which will not degrade wilderness suitability are allowable.

Decision 1-2

Incorporate the following wilderness related concerns in the District's wilderness study and the development of management plans for WSAs identified as suitable for wilderness preservation:

1. Wilderness complex.
2. Acquisition of nonpublic land.
3. Boundary adjustments.
4. Road closures.
5. Entrance quotas and permits.
6. Vehicular use for maintenance of range supporting facilities and emergency purposes such as rescuing sick animals.
7. Rehabilitation of grandfathered intrusions.
8. Elimination of livestock use due to wilderness values.

Rationale -- The District's wilderness review process received many public comments addressing wilderness related issues. Although some of these issues have been adopted within the Bureau's study phase guidelines, some are more of a local concern and thus not reflected in the Bureau's guidelines.

Decision 1-3

Study the feasibility of reintroducing bighorn into the Skedaddle escarpment and Buffalo Hills area (see map 3, page 15). Maintain the Amedee Mountains in suitable condition for possible future bighorn reintroduction. Do not irreversibly commit this area for continued livestock grazing.

Rationale -- The Skedaddle escarpment and Buffalo Hills area are potentially suitable for bighorn reintroduction. The Amedee Mountains are topographically and vegetatively suitable for bighorn. However, due to other management concerns and because the California Department of Fish and Game does not appear fully committed to the project at this time, any bighorn reintroduction program will be delayed.



#### Decision 1-4

Develop a Skedaddle Dam project in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Nevada Department of Wildlife as long as the project is consistent with Wilderness Interim Management policy (see map 3, page 15).

Rationale -- The proposed area lies on the Nevada/California border and is particularly devoid of year-round water. The dam and resulting reservoir could provide important waterfowl nesting habitat, a fishery, and a water source for wildlife, livestock, and horses.

#### Subunit 2 - Deer/Livestock Range

This area contains good livestock forage and important deer habitat. The primary objective of this subunit is to protect and enhance deer habitat while maintaining livestock production. No vegetation manipulations would be allowed, except to improve deer habitat.

#### Decision 2-1

Manage Dodge Reservoir as a recreational fishery. Anticipated improvements and maintenance needs may include the following (see map 3, page 15):

1. Improve access.
2. Construct a boat ramp.
3. Improve existing facilities to safe, adequate standards.
4. Perform regular maintenance.

Rationale -- Dodge Reservoir provides good fishing during the summer and fall. Its recreational potential, however, is limited by poor access and inadequate facilities. Improvements would increase recreational use and enjoyment of the reservoir.

#### Decision 2-2

Develop the Round Corral Reservoir to benefit wildlife. To support this decision, consider the following projects (see map 3, page 15):

1. Fence the reservoir to exclude livestock and wild horses.
2. Develop and plant a seed mixture on the existing goose nesting islands and around the banks of the reservoir to provide good quality nesting and escape cover for ducks and geese.
3. Acquire a right-of-way reservation to protect against possible detrimental future land uses.
4. Explore the possibility of establishing a bass fishery ensuring that fishing seasons would not affect waterfowl reproduction.



Rationale -- Round Corral Reservoir was designed to provide waterfowl habitat with spin off benefits to other wildlife. It has been fenced, eliminating heavy livestock and wild horse grazing, which in the past has degraded the vegetation around the reservoir. The man made islands are virtually barren.

#### Decision 2-3

Rescind the withdrawal order designating the 640 acre Button Mountain Bitterbrush Natural Area (see map 3, page 15).

Rationale -- Although this area contains a great deal of bitterbrush, it is not unique and does not warrant Natural Area status.

#### Subunit 3 - Livestock Range

Livestock grazing is the major use in this area and the primary objective of this subunit is to maximize livestock use while maintaining or improving range condition.

#### Decision 3-1

Manage Painter Flat to protect the flood plain and the plant Lomatium ravenii, listed as endangered by the State of California (see map 3, page 15).

Rationale -- The Painter Flat area is a flood plain containing populations of Lomatium ravenii. Grazing by livestock, horses, and wildlife would continue, but no agricultural conversion would be allowed.

#### Subunit 4 - Pine Dunes/Unique Plant Community

This area, which includes approximately 120 acres of public land, has Ponderosa Pines, sand dunes, and an active Golden Eagle nest making it unique within a high desert sagebrush setting. The primary objective for this subunit is to protect its unique features.

#### Decision 4-1

Designate the Pine Dunes area as a natural area and fence the area to eliminate wild horse and livestock grazing and ORV use. To support this recommendation, determine which private lands adjacent to the public land portion of the Pine Dunes area should be protected and acquire these lands for public ownership.

Rationale -- Because the pines are not reproducing, protective measures are believed to be necessary for the continuation of the ponderosa stand.

#### Subunit 5 - Smoke Creek

This area includes 7 linear miles of stream and riparian habitat critical for wildlife, provides important watershed and visual values, and contains many cultural resource sites. The primary objective for this subunit is to protect and enhance these resource values.



#### Decision 5-1

Develop a Coordinated Resource Management Plan, addressing fisheries, cultural resources, and water quality, for the public land portion of Smoke Creek. Fence all or part of the 7 linear miles of riparian habitat, if necessary, to meet wildlife, water quality, and cultural resource objectives. Close this area to ORV use.

Rationale -- Protection of Smoke Creek is important for wildlife, watershed, and cultural values. Although fencing has been recommended and could eventually be necessary, improved grazing management could achieve the same objectives without the expense of fence construction.

#### Subunit 6 - Antelope/Livestock Range

This area contains good livestock forage and important antelope habitat. The primary objective of this subunit is to protect and enhance antelope habitat while maintaining livestock production. Coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game will be necessary for fence construction to meet antelope needs. Any vegetation manipulations must consider antelope and sage grouse requirements.

#### Decision 6-1

Monitor the Deep Cut archaeological complex to determine impacts of livestock grazing on cultural values (see map 3, page 15). Establish a 200 meter buffer for future vegetation manipulation projects. Initiate an informative signing program.

Rationale -- The cultural values present are significant and should be protected.

#### Subunit 7 - Dry Valley Seeding

The primary objective for this 15,000 acre subunit is to increase livestock forage production.

#### Decision 7-1

Spray and seed 15,000 acres in Dry Valley if a benefit/cost analysis and site-specific precipitation study determine that the project is feasible. Fence to exclude horses and burros while allowing passage by antelope. Restrict ORV use to existing roads and trails. See RPS, pages 25-28, for more detailed analysis.

Rationale -- This area contains high potential soil and is currently below potential in range condition and production. Treatment would help stabilize soils, provide important additional forage for livestock, and facilitate grazing systems to improve the surrounding native range.



### Subunit 8 - Winter Range

The primary objective of this subunit is to allow winter livestock grazing at levels to minimize conflicts with wintering wildlife (see RPS for the detailed grazing management program).

#### Decision 8-1

Transfer a 120 acre parcel of public land near Wendel to private ownership (see map 3, page 15).

Rationale -- Anticipated population increases in and around Wendel, due to geothermal development, may increase demand for development of this parcel by private enterprise.

#### Decision 8-2

Excavate the John Dryden Cave, located on the west side of Smoke Creek Desert, to preserve the remaining information content of the site.

Rationale -- Although partially vandalized, a significant deposit of archaeological material is still present and could yield valuable cultural information.

#### Decision 8-3

Develop an Off Road Vehicle (ORV) area in Dry Valley consistent with other uses (see map 3, page 15).

Rationale -- This area, which has been used extensively in the past, is an excellent ORV use area with little conflict with other uses or potential for resource damage.



## RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY

### Previous Actions Relating to this Document

Draft Cal-Neva EIS: April, 1981  
Final Cal-Neva EIS: September, 1981

For detailed information on livestock grazing management alternatives, range conditions, analysis of the management alternatives, etc., copies of both the Cal-Neva Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements are available at the Susanville BLM District Office or the Eagle Lake Area Office in Susanville, California.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Purpose

This Initial RPS is designed to inform interested parties of the process for determining the grazing management program for Cal-Neva. Briefly, the process entails four steps: 1) This section which summarizes the Bureau of Land Management's proposals for grazing management and describes the current conditions and the consultation process; 2) The consultation period, during which the proposals for management will be reviewed by representatives of affected parties; 3) The issuance of individual rancher decisions (It is anticipated that these decisions will be issued in January, 1983); 4) The RPS Update, which will summarize decisions issued, decisions remaining to be issued, and other progress made to date. It will identify significant changes from the grazing program described in the RPS and reasons for those changes.

The management actions proposed in this document are designed to meet the land use objectives and goals identified in the Cal-Neva Land Use Plan (see Land Use Plan Summary, page 7). Modifications suggested during the consultation period will be considered to help meet the land use objectives.

#### Overview

Historic heavy grazing by livestock and wild horses, especially continuous grazing during the spring and early summer, has resulted in a decline of ecological range condition over the past 100 years from excellent (climax state) to mostly poor and fair today (47% and 47%, respectively). In recent years livestock trespass has been a major problem in the planning unit. This problem was largely resolved when one livestock operator's grazing permit was permanently cancelled, effective August 1, 1979.

That cancellation resulted in a 25 percent reduction of total livestock use in the Cal-Neva Summer and Winter Allotments. Also, in 1975 a livestock tagging program was implemented which effectively discouraged several other past permittees from exceeding their authorized use.



Fifteen livestock operators currently graze approximately 4,270 cattle and 9,000 sheep in the planning unit and are authorized 30,320 AUMs of active use. Most of the use occurs during the spring and summer. Winter use is limited by snow cover in the higher areas.

Seasonal and spatial distribution of water for livestock is a major problem. Water shortages are particularly evident in summer and fall, when many springs and seeps dry up and small reservoirs are empty.

The limited distribution of water contributes greatly to poor livestock distribution. Livestock concentrate near existing water sources and overgraze the vegetation in those areas. At the same time, some areas of good forage are underutilized by livestock because of lack of water. The problem is compounded during summer when livestock do not graze as far from water as they do in cooler weather.

#### MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES (Cal-Neva EIS)

##### Alternative A - Proposed Action

An existing allotment management plan (AMP) would be maintained and AMPs implemented on seven additional allotments, totalling 642,851 acres of public land. Seven miles of stream bank habitat and 120 acres of a proposed natural area would be excluded from livestock grazing. Forage would be allocated to objective and reasonable big game numbers, 600 wild horses and 75 burros, and near-existing cattle and sheep stocking levels of 30,014 AUMs (30,084 active preference AUMs). Two allotments would require a combined 62 percent (246 AUMs) reduction in livestock use. The eight allotment management plans would include different grazing systems of varying intensities. Proposed range developments consist of a 15,000 acre seeding, 120 miles of fence, 10 miles of pipeline, and 27 stock watering facilities. Available forage would be allocated to consumptive users so the rangeland carrying capacity would not be exceeded.

##### Alternative B - Decreased Livestock Use

An existing AMP would be maintained and AMPs on seven additional allotments would be implemented, totalling 642,851 acres of public land. Seven miles of stream bank habitat and 120 acres of a proposed natural area would be excluded from livestock use. Forage would be allocated to objective and reasonable big game numbers, 850 wild horses, and 110 burros. Cattle and sheep stocking levels would be reduced by approximately 50 percent to 15,138 AUMs. The eight AMPs would include different grazing systems of varying intensities. Proposed range developments would consist of 94 miles of fence and 24 stock water facilities.

##### Alternative C - Increased Livestock Use

An existing AMP would be maintained and AMPs on seven additional allotments would be implemented, totalling 642,851 acres. Seven miles of stream bank habitat and 120 acres of a proposed natural area would be excluded from livestock use. Forage would be allocated to objective and reasonable big game numbers, 600 wild horses and 75 burros. Cattle and sheep stocking levels



would be increased by approximately 60 percent from 30,260 AUMs to 48,384 AUMs. The eight AMPs would include different grazing systems of varying intensities. Proposed range developments would consist of a 15,000 acre seeding, 120 miles of fence, 10 miles of pipeline and 27 stock watering facilities.

#### Alternative D - No Action

One AMP would be maintained and eight other allotments would be managed without AMPs on the total 642,851 acres of public land. Forage would be allocated to objective and reasonable numbers of big game, 1,400 wild horses and 160 burros, and the current cattle and sheep stocking level of 30,260 AUMs. Prior adjustments in livestock use have resulted in a 50 percent reduction in authorized use since 1967. Except for the existing AMP, allotments would be managed without specific grazing systems. No new range developments would be constructed although existing improvements would be maintained.

#### Alternative E - No Grazing

The nine grazing allotments would be eliminated and no livestock use would be authorized on the 642,851 acres of public land. Forage would be allocated to objective and reasonable big game numbers, 850 horses and 110 burros. Range developments would not be constructed or maintained except as identified for support of nonlivestock resource needs.

#### RANGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The proposed Range Management Program establishes a method for implementing intensive grazing management and incorporates the land use goals of the Proposed Action of the Cal-Neva EIS and the Land Use Plan. It is recognized that the overriding goal of improving all poor condition lands to fair and all fair condition lands to good cannot be accomplished within 20 years. The proposed Range Management Program is expected to improve 28 percent of the poor condition range and 36 percent of the fair condition range. The proposed course of action will meet or exceed most of the remaining land use goals (see Land Use Plan, page 7) without severe adverse environmental impacts. With the exception of a few changes in season of use, area of use, and livestock movement, a "status quo" outlook would be maintained for the livestock permittees. No significant reductions in livestock use are proposed.

The plan encompasses the following:

1. Forage Allocation: Forage was allocated so as not to exceed the rangelands grazing capacity. Sufficient vegetation was reserved for the plants physiological requirements and the balance of the production was allocated as forage to the following consumptive uses:
  - Objective deer and antelope populations (deer: 12,900 winter and 10,700 nonwinter; antelope: 2,000 winter and 1,300 resident nonwinter).
  - 600 wild horses and 75 burros.



- Near existing livestock demand of 25,248 AUMs for cattle use and 4,766 AUMs for sheep use. A reduction in livestock use is required in the Coldren Allotment (from 119 to 26 AUMs) and the Spanish Springs Individual Allotment (from 256 AUMs to 91 AUMs) due to insufficient available forage. Reductions in livestock use can be phased in over a five year period.

Table 1 (page 29) details how the available forage was allocated in the proposed areas of use. The table notes the existence of 7,041 potentially suitable AUMs and 24,252 unallocated AUMs. This excess forage is a result of past administrative actions cancelling 15,000 AUMs of active grazing preference. Also, 10,417 AUMs would be realized by reducing wild horses and burros to a minimum herd size. Though currently allocated to nonconsumptive uses, this forage will be reserved for livestock and wild horses and burros, and allocated for their use at a future time.

Allocation of the excess forage would be evaluated on each area of use and would depend primarily on accomplishing the goals of the Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). To increase forage allocations, grazing systems must be implemented, additional stock waters developed, and monitoring should indicate an improving trend in range condition with forage utilization not exceeding moderate use (40 to 60 percent) levels. Wild horse and burro populations would be allowed to build out to 850 and 110, respectively, and the livestock permittees would be allowed to recover all or a portion of their 18,064 suspended preference AUMs.

2. Selective Management: The Bureau has implemented a new policy which places all allotments in selective management categories. These categories are improvement, maintenance, and custodial. Selective management directs funds and management where they will be most effective.

Although this policy was adopted after the Final Cal-Neva EIS, we have categorized all the allotments in the Cal-Neva Planning Unit. The categories are listed in Table 1, page 29.

3. Grazing Systems: Rotation grazing systems are proposed for 6 use areas which occupy 638,819 public land acres, or 99 percent of the Cal-Neva Planning Unit (see Table 1, page 29). Key to the implementation of intensive grazing management for the unit is the division of the Cal-Neva Common Summer Allotment into three independent areas of use: Cal-Neva #1, Cal-Neva #2, and Cal-Neva #3. This will allow development of one AMP to develop three grazing systems covering the 515,835 acres of public land within the Cal-Neva Common Summer Allotment.

Map 4, page 25 delineates areas of use while Table 1, page 29 outlines how livestock use has been proportioned in the use areas and the type of grazing system considered. Because of its unique character each use area deserves a separate discussion.







a. Cal-Neva Summer Allotment:

Cal-Neva #1 Use Area: One of three new proposed use areas, this unit represents the eastern half of the Cal-Neva Common Summer range. About 30 miles of fence is needed to separate Cal-Neva #1 from the other two new use areas. The southern 12 mile portion of the division fence is scheduled for completion in FY 83 (see Cal-Neva #3 for a further discussion of the Cal-Neva division fence). Smoke Creek would divide the use area into two large native pastures.

The FEIS Preferred Alternative recommends that the grazing management of Cal-Neva #1 be combined with the proposed Dry Valley Seeding. The seeding provides numerous benefits, but concern has been expressed over the high estimated cost (\$454,000 including fence, wells, and pipeline) and the probability of failure due to low precipitation. A detailed cost-benefit analysis and a site-specific precipitation study will probably be necessary before the seeding is constructed. Without the seeding, Cal-Neva #1 would be managed under an interim two-pasture deferred rotation grazing system. Construction of additional water sources is needed to improve livestock distribution.

Cal-Neva #2 Use Area: One of three new proposed use areas, this unit is located in the extreme southwest portion of the Cal-Neva Common Summer range. The southern 12 mile portion of the Cal-Neva division fence is scheduled for completion in FY 83 and would separate this unit from the Cal-Neva #1 use area. An internal pasture fence would allow implementation of the proposed two-pasture deferred rotation grazing system. The opportunity to fence out an early use area on the south facing slopes south of Little Mud Flat needs to be discussed with the affected permittees. Additional reservoir work and a centrally located well are also essential to improve management.

Cal-Neva #3 Use Area: One of three new proposed use areas, this unit is located in the northwest portion of the Cal-Neva Common Summer range. About 20 miles of fence (from Pilgrim Lake to Smoke Creek Ranch) is needed to separate this use area from Cal-Neva #1 and is tentatively scheduled for completion in FY 84. Proper location of this fence is important and additional consultation is needed with the affected parties prior to construction. Wild horse interests and the grazing permittees have shown significant concern for this segment of fence. After construction of the fence, this use area would be composed of two large pastures with the Shinn Ranch separating the two. The unit would be managed under an interim two-pasture deferred rotation system until a pasture division fence can be constructed to allow the three-pasture rest-rotation grazing system proposed in the FEIS.

b. Cal-Neva Winter Range Allotment: This allotment would be enlarged 17,000 acres by including the southern flanks of the Skedaddle and Amedee mountains.



The FEIS proposed a grazing season of 11/01 to 02/28. Except for 2 weeks of sheep use, livestock use during March would be eliminated. This proposal would provide grazing deferment during the early spring growing period while perennial grasses are breaking dormancy and it would also prevent trampling of muddy soils. A closer inspection of the Winter Range has revealed areas, such as Dry Valley, which would be exceptions to the above proposal, because of their lack of perennial grass and the occurrence of well drained, trample resistant soils. Consultation with the permittees is needed to determine how grazing can continue into March and still provide protection from grazing on the more susceptible range sites.

If the Dry Valley Seeding is constructed, 15,000 acres would be removed from the Winter Range and used in conjunction with the Cal-Neva #1 grazing system. An interim management opportunity would be to fence Dry Valley and use it during early spring. This would allow more efficient use of the early annual vegetation and provide grazing deferment to the native ranges in Cal-Neva #1. This proposal needs to be further discussed with the affected permittees.

Six miles of fence would be constructed from Burro Mountain to Red Rock Canyon to tie off the Winter Range from Cal-Neva #1, and additional stock waters would be constructed to improve livestock distribution.

- c. Spanish Springs AMP: The grazing system of the existing AMP would be changed to a three pasture rest-rotation with an early seeded pasture, the season of use would be changed from 05/16 - 10/15 to 04/16 - 09/15, and the existing pasture fences would be relocated to accomodate the modified grazing system. Additional waters would be developed in the northwest portion of the allotment.
- d. Shinn Peak Individual Allotment: The existing allotment would be enlarged to include the Spanish Springs fire rehabilitation area. Existing fences would be used to implement a two pasture deferred-rotation grazing system. The FEIS Preferred Alternative recommends transferring the existing Shinn Peak permit, controlled by Espil, to Cal-Neva #1 and transferring a larger grazing permit to the Shinn Peak Allotment to be managed under the proposed grazing system. Additional stockwaters will be developed in this allotment to allow implementation of the grazing system. Two wells are tentatively programmed for completion in FY 83 and 84.
- e. Morgan-Reynolds and Spanish Springs Individual Allotments: The FEIS recommended AMPs for these allotments. It is now felt that an intensive grazing management program is not necessary and management objectives can be accomplished by modifying the season of use to allow for deferred spring use. The season of use for Morgan-Reynolds and Spanish Springs Individual Allotments would be 07/01 to 10/31 and 09/01 to 10/31, respectively.



- f. Coldren Allotment: After reducing the livestock use to a 4 cow, 24 AUM permit, there is serious concern that this allotment does not warrant continued administration. It may be more realistic to eliminate Coldren and combine the active preference AUMs and acreage with Cal-Neva #3 as in the case of Hylen and Lyle Allotments. This option will be considered further during the consultation period.
  - g. Hylen and Lyle Allotments: These allotments will be eliminated with the active preference AUMs and acreage combined with Cal-Neva #3.
4. Range Developments: Development of range improvements is part of the management proposal and is addressed in the Cal-Neva EIS. However, until detailed AMPs are completed it is not known exactly how many improvement projects will be required to allow full implementation of the grazing plan. Initially, the following improvements have been identified: 6 wells, 10 reservoirs, 11 spring developments, 15,000 acres of seeding, and 10 miles of pipeline with troughs. The FEIS noted a need for 120 miles of fence. However, by using natural barriers and existing fences, the amount of additional fence needed can be reduced to 90 miles. A field examination completed during 1982 revealed the opportunity to develop an additional 56 reservoirs and 7 springs (see map 4, page 25).
  5. Resource Protection: A 120 acre livestock enclosure will be developed to protect the proposed Pine Dunes Natural Area (within the Coldren Allotment) from livestock and wild horse and burro use.

A wildlife Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and watershed Best Management Practice (BMP) study will be conducted on seven miles of Smoke Creek to determine management for this riparian area. If necessary, the stream will be fenced to exclude livestock, horses, and burros.

In addition to these resource protection measures, the following Standard Operating Procedures and Mitigating Measures will be followed:

#### Standard Operating Procedures

Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) developed to implement grazing management decisions would include range developments and vegetation manipulations, as appropriate. Standard Operating Procedures for implementation of the range developments would include the following:

1. Site-specific endangered species inventories will be completed before any project is implemented.
2. Land treatment areas and seedings will be rested until seedlings are sufficiently established to resist pull-up from grazing.
3. Before construction of range developments and vegetation manipulations, cultural resources will be inventoried and evaluated, and attempts to avoid adverse effects will be made. Where this is not possible, consultation will be made with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic



Table 1  
Proposed Grazing Management

Allocation/ Management Category	Permittee	No./Class	Season of Use	Authorized AUMs	Active Preference (AUMs)	Suspended Preference (AUMs)	Grazing Capacity <sup>2/</sup> (AUMs)	Grazing System			
Cal-Neva Summer/ Improvement (AMP) (Use Area #1)	Espil	1,090/C	04/01-10/31	7,630	7,637 <sup>1/</sup>	3,598 <sup>1/</sup>		<u>Seeding:</u> Early, use 3 pasture rest rotation. <sup>2/</sup>  <u>Native:</u> Spring deferred 2 pasture rest rotation. <sup>3/</sup>			
		2,000/S	04/01-05/30	800	2,893	2,402					
		2,000/S	04/01-07/02	1,227							
		2,000/S	09/01-10/10	533							
		2,000/S	09/16-10/26	333							
				10,523	10,530	6,000					
	Laver	108/C	05/01-10/31	648	652	380					
	SUBTOTALS			11,171	11,182	6,380	20,514				
	(Use Area #2)	Clark	75/C	04/16-10/31	488	491	286			Two pasture rest rotation. <sup>3/</sup>	
		Clerke	10/C	04/16-10/31	65	66	39				
Swickard		694/C	04/01-06/15	1,735	1,735	1,011					
SUBTOTALS			2,288	2,292	1,336	14,265					
(Use Area #3)	Oodgs Ranch Association (Leased to Bob Cockrell)	627/C	04/16-10/31	4,075	4,078	2,849		Three pasture rest rotation. <sup>3/</sup>			
		French	131/C	04/01-04/15	66	67	-				
		Espil	2,000/S	06/01-06/12	160						
			2,000/S	08/16-08/30	200						
			2,000/S	08/30-09/15	213						
				573	574						
	Roberts	660/C	04/16-10/31	4,290	4,291 <sup>4/</sup>	2,809 <sup>4/</sup>					
	Oodgs Ranch Inc. (Leased to Bill Cockrell)	110/C	05/01-10/31	660	664	458					
		SUBTOTALS			9,664	9,674	6,116		13,447		
	Cal-Neva Winter Range/Improvement (AMP)	Espil	669/C	11/01-01/31	2,007	2,008	1,470		One pasture deferred - winter use. <sup>3/</sup>		
7,000/S			03/17-03/31	700	699	406					
				2,707	2,707	1,876					
Fish Springs Ranch		208/C	11/01-02/28	832	831	484					
Mendiboure		1,000/S	12/01-02/28	600	617	359					
Stark		94/C	11/01-02/28	472	473	276					
SUBTOTALS				4,611	4,628	2,995	5,564				
Coldran/Custodial (Non-AMP)		Roberts	4/C	05/01-10/31	24	119	19	26	Continuous.		
		Spanish Springs Individual/ Maintenance (Non-AMP)	Dodgs Ranch Inc. (Leased to Cockrell)	45/C	09/01-10/31	90	259	187	91	One pasture deferred - fall use.	
				Morgan-Reynolds/ Maintenance (Non-AMP)	Laposa	16/C	07/01-10/31	64	66	77	207
	Morgen				36/C	07/01-10/31	144	144	171		
						208	210	248			
	Spanish Springs AMP/Improvement			Cockrell	139/C	04/16-09/15	695	695	140	2,261	Three pasture rest rotation with early seeded pasture.
				Garete	82/C	04/16-09/15	410	408	82		
							1,105	1,103	222		
	Shinn Individual/ Improvement (AMP)			French	131/C	04/16-10/31	851	853	561	1,875	Two pasture deferred rotation.
	Hylan			Roberts	ALLOTMENT ELIMINATED - Grazing preference and acreage combined with Cal-Neva Summer Allotment - Use Area #3.						
Lyla	Roberts			ALLOTMENT ELIMINATED - Grazing preference and acreage combined with Cal-Neva Summer Allotment - Use Area #3.							
TOTALS				30,012	30,320	18,064	58,250				

- 1/ Includes 272 active and 94 suspended preference AUMs from Shinn Peak Individual Allotment.  
2/ Includes potentially suitable AUMs.  
3/ Applies to all users within the allotment.  
4/ Includes 71 active and 11 suspended preference AUMs from Hylan and Lyle Allotments.



Preservation to develop acceptable mitigative strategies in accordance with the Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (dated January 14, 1980) between the Bureau and the Advisory Council. In addition, the views of responsible spokesmen of the local Native American community will be solicited. Conflicts will be resolved in accordance with the Native American Religious Freedom Act of 1979.

4. Construction of fences in wildlife use areas will meet BLM specifications to permit the movement of identified wildlife.
5. Where possible, fences which must cross steep, erodable soils will not run perpendicular to the slope, but will be angled across the slope.
6. Livestock watering developments will be available and safe for wildlife and wild horse and burro needs, as identified.
7. Spring developments generally will be fenced to prevent trampling of the immediate area.
8. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with native and/or introduced species to provide ground cover.
9. New range developments and maintenance of existing developments within Wilderness Study Areas will meet the Bureau's Interim Management Policy.
10. All water projects or projects which could influence the beneficial use of water will conform to BLM Best Management Practices Guidelines.
11. Visual impacts on an area will not exceed limits imposed for the area's designated VRM class. A contrast rating will be conducted on the ground for each type of range improvement project to meet Bureau Manual 8431.11 requirements. The contrast rating will also suggest mitigation to further lessen the impacts.
12. Sheep will be herded and lambing grounds, trails, and bedding grounds will be rotated.

#### Mitigation Measures

In addition to meeting all Federal laws and policy guidelines and the above Standard Operating Procedures, the following Mitigation Measures will be required:

1. Turnout dates and dates for moving livestock from one pasture to another will be synchronized with range readiness and the phenological development of the key plant species. These dates can vary from year to year due to fluctuations in the conditions that affect plant phenology. Yearly monitoring of plant phenological



stages will be necessary for proper adjustment of dates for turnout and pasture moves. For the Cal-Neva #1 Allotment, turnout onto the native range pastures from the Dry Valley seeding will not occur before range readiness.

2. Gates, cattleguards, let down fence panels, or other appropriate devices will be installed where the Dry Valley Seeding fence crosses established motorcycle trails.
  3. Salt or mineral blocks and spring developments will be located and designed to encourage livestock use away from spring meadows.
  4. Grazing on Painters Flat will be monitored and if grazing of Lomatium ravenii by sheep is more than 20 percent by weight, sheep will be excluded from grazing on the flat from April through June.
  5. At the end of the grazing season, gates will be left open to allow passage by wild horses and burros.
  6. Water will be left or made available (by leaving gaps in the fence or piping water outside the fence to a trough) on both sides of the Smoke Creek protective exclosures.
  7. For the Dry Valley Seeding, a suitable perennial forb will be included in the seed mixture and about 5 percent of the total area treated will be left in native vegetation to provide interspersions within the seeded area.
6. Monitoring: A monitoring program will be implemented on each AMP area to ensure that management objectives are being met. Utilization, condition and trend, actual use, precipitation, water quality and quantity, soil movement, threatened and endangered plants, cultural resources, and wild horses and burros would all be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the proposed management and provide data for making any needed adjustments. Adjustments could include changes in seasons of use, livestock numbers, and grazing systems. Changes in grazing systems could include extensions or reductions in periods of use, based on climatic variations, which would provide flexibility in the rotation of pastures. Monitoring of non-AMP use areas will be conducted on a limited basis for special problems or concerns.

#### PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The following steps will be used to implement grazing management:

- Reduce stocking levels on those allotments where existing use exceeds the grazing capacity and adjust seasons of use.
- Develop AMPs addressing objectives, grazing systems, existing improvements, proposed improvements, and use flexibility.



- Construct range improvements as necessary.
- Develop and implement a monitoring system to evaluate the effectiveness of the Rangeland Management Program.

AMPs will be implemented as funds are available and priorities are set with consideration given to the following criteria:

- The number of acres in unsatisfactory range condition.
- The potential for improvement.
- Resource conflicts.
- Economic return from public investment.
- Feasibility of improving management.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR PROTEST AND APPEAL

Pursuant to the regulations for grazing administration on public lands, the permittees and other affected parties will have the opportunity to protest and appeal the individual rancher decisions. Decisions will be furnished to each affected livestock operator and, by request, to other interested parties. The individual rancher decisions will furnish details, if affected parties wish to exercise the right of protest and appeal.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. General - See page 4.
2. Public response to Cal-Neva FEIS.

The Susanville BLM District wants to thank those who responded to the Cal-Neva Final Environmental Impact Statement. Following publication of the FEIS, the Susanville District received only five comment letters. These included:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agency, Organization, or Individual</u>
1	09/24/81	California Department of Fish and Game - A. E. Naylor, Redding
2	09/28/81	Lucille French
3	09/30/81	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency - Jake Mackenzie, San Francisco
4	10/26/81	The Resources Agency of California - James W. Burns/Dr. Knox Mellon, Sacramento
5	10/28/81	The Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology - Alice M. Becker, Carson City



Letters #1 and #3 expressed support for the FEIS and did not contain any substantive comments. Letters #4 and #5 were concerned that the Cal-Neva EIS had been found in noncompliance with Federal laws and regulations regarding the preservation of cultural resources.

A meeting was held in Carson City, Nevada on October 5, 1981 between representatives of the BLM and Nevada and California State Historic Preservation Offices, concerning Proposed Livestock Grazing Management for the Cal-Neva Planning Unit, Final EIS.

The following stipulations were found agreeable to the BLM and the Nevada and California State Historic Preservation offices:

1. It is necessary for the BLM to submit a copy of the cultural resources report resulting from the Class II inventory of the Cal-Neva Planning Unit.
2. The BLM must provide a justification for the Class II sample size chosen and the reason a Class I inventory was found to be unnecessary. Additionally, the BLM must demonstrate how the Class II inventory fulfills the intentions of the PMOA.
3. The BLM must submit a cultural resources management plan that would describe mitigation and methods for monitoring impacts on archaeological sites in the Cal-Neva project area.
4. The BLM must also reiterate its obligations to implement the PMOA.

Upon completion of these agreed stipulations, the BLM will be in compliance with the applicable cultural resource laws and regulations.

Letter #2 expressed some concerns of the ranching community. It included the following comments:

"I believe the Alternative A is the one which we should have in the Cal-Neva Unit.

There are some of the paragraphs which should have some change. We have had about a fifty percent cut in the last several years. Some of the range should have some reseeding.

At this time I believe the water is the most important to develop. Some of the springs which have never gone dry, certainly needs work on them.

I am in agreement with the letter number 10. There could be some changes in #10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4.

Before any fencing in the allotments the water should be developed.



The number 10-4, the wheatgrass is really good feed early in the spring, as it is young and tender, but left to reseed, it gets tough and the cows or sheep won't eat it as it cuts there (sic) mouths.

I believe the wild horses and burros will have to be controlled the same as the cattle and sheep have been for years.

The Cal-Neva unit has a suspended none (sic) use, which I think should be returned to the users.

We in the Cal-Neva unit have to pay for the use of the range, and other people, campers, hunters etc. pay nothing, which isn't fair to us."

In response to letter number 2:

The preferred alternative considers only 15,000 acres of seeding (Dry Valley Seeding). We agree that more range land is suitable for reseeding. An analysis of extensive seedings was included in the DEIS (page 1-53) as an alternative considered, but not fully analyzed, due to insufficient need based on current forage demand, high expected costs, and conflicts with wilderness.

In reference to your request for additional stock water development, we share your concern. High priority will be placed on water projects which will improve livestock distribution prior to fence construction for pasture divisions.

Your recommendation to control wild horse numbers is generally supported by the Cal-Neva grazing permittees. The preferred alternative proposes to reduce wild horse and burro populations to a minimum management level of 600 horses and 75 burros.

Your request to return the suspended nonuse grazing preference to the permittees is very real. The unit is producing excess forage, but, prior to allocation, The following hurdles must be crossed:

1. Additional waters should be developed to improve livestock distribution.
2. AMPs with improved grazing systems should be implemented.
3. Monitoring should be implemented and indicate an improving trend in range condition and a utilization of forage plants which does not exceed proper use.



## RECORD OF DECISION

On September 4, 1981, notice appeared in the Federal Register announcing that the BLM filed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for livestock grazing within the Susanville District's Cal-Neva Planning Unit. The BLM has decided to adopt the Preferred Alternative described in the Final EIS with some modifications. It is intended to guide the range management program within the framework of the Land Use Plan, summarized earlier in this document.

### The Plan and Alternative

The alternatives analyzed in the Cal-Neva EIS are summarized on page 22 of the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS). The approved plan consists of the Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action page 22) with the following modifications:

1. The present Cal-Neva Summer Allotment would not be immediately divided into three separate allotments (Cal-Neva #1, #2, and #3) as proposed in the EIS, but would remain as one allotment with three "Use Areas." However, management of these "Use Areas" would essentially be the same as if they were divided into three separate allotments.

The Coldren Allotment may, based on consultation with affected permittees, be absorbed into the Cal-Neva #3 use area.

2. Wild horse and burro herds would initially be reduced to 600 and 75, respectively, as proposed in the EIS, but the numbers would be allowed to expand up to 850 horses and 110 burros after range condition improves.
3. The FEIS proposed fencing seven miles of riparian habitat along Smoke Creek to protect wildlife habitat, watershed, and cultural resources from livestock grazing. However, prior to fence construction a Habitat Management Plan (HMP), Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP), and water quality Best Management Practice (BMP) analysis must be developed to identify management objectives, and through monitoring, determine if the objectives are being met without fencing. Protective fencing would still be constructed if necessary to meet wildlife, water quality, and cultural objectives.
4. Although the FEIS proposed implementation of Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) on all grazing allotments except Coldren, with Hylen and Lyle being eliminated, AMPs will also not be developed for Morgan Reynolds and Spanish Springs Individual Allotments.

### Rationale for the Decision

This plan represents a balanced resource use alternative. It strives to maintain existing livestock use (minimizing socioeconomic hardships) while meeting wildlife and wild horse and burro needs, protecting wilderness study areas, and improving range condition through more intensive management. Because allowable livestock use had already been reduced by 50 percent since 1967, it was possible to develop such a plan. Consequently, the Preferred Alternative generated very little public controversy.

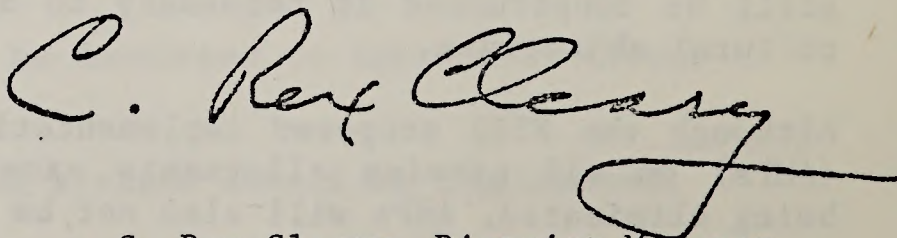


The Cal-Neva Final EIS Preferred Alternative was modified for the following reasons:

1. By initially dividing the Cal-Neva Summer Allotment into "Use Areas" rather than individual allotments and absorbing the Coldren Allotment into the Cal-Neva #3 Use Area, the same management practices would be undertaken to achieve the same objectives. It would also allow more flexible interim management before adjudicating final allotment boundaries.
2. Allowing a modest range of wild horse and burro numbers would provide more realistic management guidelines. The lower populations, when combined with other elements of the Preferred Alternative, would help improve range condition, increase forage production, and reduce competition for food and space. The higher population level would provide an acceptable range of horse and burro numbers to be adjusted depending on the resource needs and responses.
3. Developing a Habitat Management Plan prior to authorizing fence construction along Smoke Creek would identify management objectives and, through monitoring, determine if the objectives are being met without fencing. Improved grazing management practices may sufficiently protect the concerned values. If not, protective fencing would then be constructed.
4. Morgan Reynolds and Spanish Springs Individual Allotments comprise a combined acreage of only 3,020 acres supporting 298 AUMs of livestock use. Eighty-six (86) percent of these two allotments are in fair condition. Because of the small size and basically stable range condition, as well as budget constraints, it was felt that these allotments could adequately be managed without AMPs.

#### Mitigation Measures

All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental damage have been adopted. All proposals will be implemented in compliance with applicable laws, executive orders, regulations and agreements. In addition, those mitigating measures listed in the RPS (page 30) will be followed.



C. Rex Cleary, District Manager  
Susanville District,  
Bureau of Land Management



## GLOSSARY

### ABBREVIATIONS

AMP	Allotment Management Plan
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BMP	Best Management Practice
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CRMP	Cultural Resource Management Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
IMP	Interim Management Policy
MFP	Management Framework Plan
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
PMOA	Programmatic Memorandum of Understanding
ROD	Record of Decision
RPS	Rangeland Program Summary
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WSA	Wilderness Study area

### TERMS

**ACTUAL USE:** The amount of livestock use actually grazed.

**ALLOTMENT:** An area of land where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public lands, but may include parcels of private or state owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or be only one pasture.

**ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP):** A livestock grazing management plan dealing with a specific unit of rangeland, and based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources - watershed, vegetation, and wildlife. An AMP establishes the seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on the range, the range improvements needed, and the grazing system.



ANIMAL UNIT·MONTH (AUM): (1) The amount of feed or forage required by an animal unit for one month, (i.e., 800 lbs./mo.); (2) Tenure of one animal-unit for a period of one month.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP): A practice or combination of practices determined by the State and/or area-wide planning agencies, after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation, to be the most effective, practicable means of preventing or reducing pollution generated by non-point sources to a level compatible with water quality standards.

CLIMAX: The highest ecological development of a plant community capable of perpetuation under the prevailing climate and soil conditions.

GRANDFATHERED USE (WILDERNESS): An authorized use taking place on the land as of the date of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (October 21, 1976).

GRAZING SYSTEM: A systematic sequence of grazing use and nonuse of an allotment to reach identified multiple-use goals or objectives.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY: The Bureau's management policy for lands under wilderness review. The policy is to continue resource use on lands under wilderness review in a manner that maintains the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness (referred to as the "Nonimpairment" Standard).

KEY PLANT SPECIES: A plant which is relatively or potentially abundant, endures moderately close grazing, and serves as an indicator of changes occurring in the vegetational complex. This species is an important vegetation component which, if overused, will have a significant effect on watershed condition, grazing capacity, or other resource values.

MONITORING: A series of procedures used to measure the response of vegetation, wildlife, and other resources to changes in rangeland management.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The official list, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

NATURAL AREA: An area where natural processes predominate and which is preserved for the primary purpose of research and education. Such areas may include (1) typical or unusual faunal and/or floral types, associations, or other biotic phenomena, or (2) characteristic or outstanding geologic or hydrologic features and processes.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.



PHENOLOGY: The study of the sequence of events and time of occurrence of the life processes of a plant such as start of growth, flowering, seed ripe, etc., especially as related to climate.

RANGE CONDITION: The present state of the vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site. Measured as a percentage of the present plant community that is climax for the range site.

RANGE TREND: The direction of change in range condition.

RANGE READINESS: The stage of growth of the important palatable plants on the range and condition of soil which permit grazing without undue compacting of the soil or endangering the ability of the plants to maintain themselves.

REASONABLE AND OBJECTIVE WILDLIFE NUMBERS: Population goals for deer and antelope which have been agreed upon by BLM and the States' wildlife agencies.

RIPARIAN: Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally used to refer to the plants of all types that grow rooted in the water table of streams, ponds, and springs.

SUSPENDED PREFERENCE: That portion of the grazing preference which is placed in a suspended category because the preference exceeds the available livestock grazing capacity. Same as suspended nonuse.

UTILIZATION: The amount of vegetation or foliage removed from a plant by grazing animals. Usually expressed as a percent of the plants total annual weight.

UTILIZATION STANDARDS:

Light - 21 to 40 percent utilization.

Moderate - 41 to 60 percent utilization.

Heavy - 61 to 80 percent utilization.

VEGETATIVE MANIPULATION (Land Treatment or Type Conversions): A means of reducing undesirable plants (usually brush, juniper, or noxious weeds) and replacing with desirable vegetation through control methods such as herbicide application, burning, plowing, brush beating, chaining and seeding.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA: A roadless area which has been found to have wilderness characteristics (thus having the potential for being included in the National Wilderness System), and which will be subjected to intensive analysis in BLM's planning system, and public review to determine wilderness suitability, and is not yet the subject of a congressional decision regarding its designation as wilderness.

WINTER RANGE: An area essential to the winter maintenance of a given animal population.







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